



CITY OF DURHAM
Office of Public Affairs
101 CITY HALL PLAZA
DURHAM, NC 27701



For Details, Contact:
Kammie Michael
Public Information Officer
(919) 560-4322 x29195
Kammie.Michael@durhamnc.gov

News Release

Durham Police Department

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Durham Police Crime Analyst Earns International Certification

Brian Aagaard, a Durham Police Crime Analyst, has earned a prestigious professional certification from the International Association of Crime Analysts. Aagaard is now a Certified Law Enforcement Analyst, the first in North Carolina and the 43rd in the world.

The certification is based on a point system that acknowledges work experience, demonstrable knowledge, skills and abilities, academic work, on-the-job training, and contributions to advancing the profession, according to the IACA website. Aagaard took a test last week to earn the certification.

“As the Durham Police Department continues to move forward with data driven policing, it is the talent and commitment from employees such as Brian that is going to help us lead the way in both technology and policing methods of the future,” said Police Chief Jose L. Lopez Sr.



Aagaard joined the Durham Police Department’s Crime Analysis Unit in August 2011. He earned his undergraduate degree from Mercyhurst University in Erie, Pa., and his master’s degree from the University at Albany – SUNY. He first worked as a crime analyst in 2008 with the John F. Finn Institute for Public Safety in Onondaga County, N.Y./Syracuse, N.Y. He then worked as an intelligence analyst with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation before joining the Durham Police Department.

“I wanted to work for a department with a really good crime analysis unit. Durham has a great reputation with lots of opportunities for intelligence-led analysis,” Aagaard said.

One of Aagaard’s favorite areas of analysis is short-term crime series and patterns. Last year his work in that area helped police investigators focus on a suspect in a series of business armed robberies. The suspect – Damon Quick of Durham – pleaded guilty last week in federal court to robbing eight Durham businesses. Aagaard also is interested in analyzing long-term crime trends and seasonal crime patterns.

